



Foggy Bottom News

Published for and by the Citizens of Foggy Bottom

Volume 21, No. 3

PAGE ONE

November 1976

NEXT MEETING:

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Speakers on

- Consumer Affairs
- Eye Street Closing

NO DECEMBER ISSUE... HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS!

ANC NEWS

ANC MEETING
Tues. DECEMBER 7
8 PM
St. Paul's Church
2430 K St., N.W.

WELCOME NEW ANC COMMISSIONER

Welcome to Diane Schilke, who was elected on November 2 to represent SMD 2A02. Diane will fill the position left by Bill Cummings, who recently purchased a house elsewhere in D.C.

STAFF MEMBER WANTED

Administrative Assistant/Generalist: part-time 20-30 hours per week for the ANC. Adequate office skills; research and light writing ability; well organized and reliable; new one person office. Knowledge of D.C. Government an asset. SEND resume and salary requirements—indicate availability—to Foggy Bottom and West End Advisory Neighborhood Commission, 943A 25th Street, N.W., D.C. 20037.

SEEN AROUND THE BOTTOM

My schedule for nite or day walking during October was lousy. Everytime I was free to start my trek it was either raining bucketsful or it was cold—not at all like our normal beautiful Washington Octobers.

I did make it a few times tho and was rewarded by the beautiful fall colors in the many varieties of trees in The Bottom. And right in the middle of all the fall browns, yellows, oranges and reds were four pink and white crabapple trees in full bloom at the Juarez Park at Va. and NH Avenues. Crazy mixed up trees! Several queries to the National Park Service really didn't get me a satisfactory answer. Let's just hope those four trees know that we will be looking forward to their blooming in the spring.

As promised, I did the full perimeter boundaries of our Foggy Bottom area one evening. It's lonely down around F Street at nite and busy as all get-out around the Riverside Drive. I discovered that the famous Touch-down Club is in our area; that the office building at 20th and K turns blue at nite, and that some of the parks on Pa. Ave. are individually or collectively doing a poor job of clean-up—it really is a mess. Overgrown weeds impede walking on 23rd; dirt blows into your eyes when it is windy and you have to pick your way gingerly at certain points not to cut your feet. I contacted Frank Waram of Bechtel (Metro contractor) and Jack Wilson, PA Officer at GWU, and they each promised to do their share on cleaning up. Jack also promised to contact the city. We'll see...

Similarly, the Monument parking lot at 24th, Va. Ave. and G Sts. had grass and weeds growing like crazy. President Sylvan Gershowitz had the grass and weeds cut and promised to rescue the lovely cedar tree on G Street from suffocation. Maybe in time for Christmas Mr. G?

I see that little by little owners on 23rd St. between Va. Ave. and G are starting to remodel and otherwise fix up their property. What has been done is very nice. 23rd St. at this point and around the corner on G could be quite nice with just a little interest, effort and money, of course.

The vacant lot at 26th and K (NE corner) does a disservice to the two lovely old and well kept houses and "yards" at 2521-23 K St. Lack of civic pride on someone's part.

Say, have you seen the little angel hanging on to the tree at 1015 24th St.—hanging on for dear life? Reminds me of how we in the Foggy Bottom area must hang on for dear life to our neighborhood townhouses: without them we would not be a neighborhood.

And have you seen the fire plug in front of 94) 25th, painted by A. Penny Dash; looks very nice. That's the only one I've seen in our area; are there others?

Early one nite I discovered that the Walk Light at 25th and K Sts. needs some attention—more time is needed to get across the street. Some of us can't run the mile anymore as fast as we used to.

After taking note of these things I decided just to relax and walk-walk-walk. Before long, I found myself counting the number of restaurants in our area. I had to stop; there are hundreds of them, or so it seemed to me. This made me look closer at other services and facilities we enjoy. Like churches, educational institutions, movies, theatres, liquor stores, grocery stores, etc. We have so many of everything!!

After this eye opener I talked to Bob Charles, our hard-working FBA President, and we agreed that a Foggy Bottom Directory of Services might serve a very useful purpose for our residents. Also, it might get us some new AD income (we have to get income from someplace). So, early next year I'll try to pull together such a directory and we will publish it for you in the FBA News.

One cold and rainy day I decided to do something pleasant, something I'd been wanting to do for several months. I dropped in at the Guest Quarters and arranged to do a feature story on our relatively new neighbor. It is in this newsletter; I hope that you will like it.

On this same cold day I stopped in to see Father Wilbur at St. Mary's Episcopal Church on 24th Street to see how he was doing with his Senior Citizen Program. He tells me that our October Foggy Bottom News article has increased his Lunch-time Program, for which he is very pleased—the more the merrier, says he. Father still needs somebody or bodies to help develop a full program for Senior Citizens of Foggy Bottom. Don't be bashful; offer to help; call Father Wilbur at Fe 3-3985, or better still, go to see him. You're bound to get involved after talking to Father Wilbur.

Today, November 2, is a beautiful day. Beautiful in more ways than esthetic beauty. I think that all of Foggy Bottom turned out to vote. Good for us. The Foggy Bottom Association thanks all those good people who helped at the polls; without you there couldn't be an election—of the people by the people.

As there will not be a December Foggy Bottom News I will take this opportunity to wish all of you a Healthy and Happy Holiday Season. Enjoy your neighborhood at Christmas. See you in January 1977.

Mary E. Healy

Guest Quarters

HOME AWAY FROM HOME at 801 New Hampshire Avenue. Tel. #785-2000. With this article I hope to tell you something about Guest Quarters itself and something about its Manager and Staff.

We got lucky with the arrival of Guest Quarters in our midst; although I must admit that we didn't feel at all lucky about it in the beginning. We had been promised a luxury apartment building and had spent days and days at the Zoning Board hearings having this pounded into our heads by the developers of the Apartment Building and the Zoning Board. We ironed out many problems that we had with the original building plans and then Lo and Behold the luxury apartment went the way of many business ventures—kaput. And we wound up with what we thought was going to be another impersonal hotel-motel on our hands, with scads of strangers coming and going all the time.

Our first inkling that this wasn't the case was when a huge, umpteen foot, lighted sign appeared on the south side of the new Guest Quarters building—blazing away for all to see for miles around. Some of you might remember the apoplexy of that day when you thought you saw your property values going

down the drain. As for me, I remember, after my first "I knew it!", thinking this will be the test; if we can get that sign down we will let them stay.

Many FB residents came alive that day. They pooled their efforts, with the Potomac Plaza taking the lead, to work with the management of the Guest Quarters. The talking was plain, clear and to the point. On both sides. Both sides had their point. I must say I have never really seen such cooperation; that sign came down just as fast as GQ could get the workmen in to take it down (and it had cost GQ a pretty penny).

That was the beginning of a "beautiful friendship". Guest Quarters has been an extremely good neighbor and we are proud to have them in our Foggy Bottom area. They maintain their property beautifully, inside and out. The landscaping and sidewalk areas are a credit to our community and I have never seen them not well kept.

Most of their regular staff live in Foggy Bottom. Their Manager, Michael M. Dickens, belongs to the FBA and actively participates in our affairs. Meeting facilities are regularly made available to us for Executive Board Meetings at no cost to the Association.

(continued on page 4)



Foggy Bottom Presidents and Councilman Wilson enjoy Octoberfest.

Letter to the Editor

Open letter to Foggy Bottom Association
members & friends:

Last year, for the first time, Guest Quarters offered special holiday rates to our Foggy Bottom neighbors and their friends. This promotion was a success. It not only brought business into Guest Quarters, but people in the neighborhood appreciated the opportunity for their relatives and friends to stay with us at the much reduced- holiday rate.

This year, Guest Quarters, in conjunction with it's now annual holiday promotion, will donate \$3.00 to the Foggy Bottom Association for each night of business referred to Guest Quarters by Foggy Bottom Association members or their friends.

The period covered by this is the week of Thanksgiving, all weekends in December and the time between the days of December 17 and January 9. The special holiday rate for this period is \$35.00 a night for one to four persons. This compares with our normal rate of up to \$69.00 for a family of four.

In order to make reservations for this holiday season at these holiday rates, you should try and make your reservation between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and ask for the holiday reservations desk. And most importantly, remember to tell the person taking the reservation that it is a Foggy Bottom Association referral.

Sincerely yours,
Mike Dickens,
General Manager


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Owner Rafael Fermoselle has put together an extensive menu that includes "tapas" (appetizers) through unusual fruit desserts. Daily luncheon specials include Cuba's popular Picadillo, chopped beef lavishly seasoned with a tomato and pepper sauce, Arroz con pollo, and paella.

For sandwich lovers, Las Tapas offers twelve different varieties from the Cuban Sandwich, a savory combination of roasted fresh pork, baked ham and cheese, to a cheeseburger. All are served on fresh crusty bread which is prepared and baked by the restaurant's chef.

Dinner specialties include Steak a la Cubana, Masitas de Puerco (pork, rice and black beans), and Gambas de Ajillo (jumbo shrimp in garlic butter).

Las Tapas is perfect for dining before and after the theater whether there is time for a complete meal or a couple of drinks and one or two of the unusual appetizers. Las Tapas opens at 11:30 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. on week days, Friday and Saturday disco until 2:00 a.m., Happy Hour daily from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.



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Foggy Bottom News

The Foggy Bottom News is a publication of the Foggy Bottom Association. All editorial and other assistance is contributed on a volunteer basis by residents of the area.

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c/o West End Library

24th and L Sts., NW

Washington, D.C. 20037

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The opinions expressed in this publications are those of the writers. Their appearance here constitutes neither an endorsement nor official policy of the Foggy Bottom Association.

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Foggy Bottom Farmer



The Christmas Rose and the Norfolk Island pine were put on earth to warm the hearts of city gardeners as the winter holidays approach. The Norfolk Island pine (*Araucaria excelsa*), a native of the southern hemisphere, and which outdoors there may acquire a height of 200 ft, is grown here as you know it—a favorite potted florist plant which in a pot or a tub can be kept indoors (or in summertime on your balcony) to a height of from two to ten feet as you may wish.



The Norfolk Island pine has all of the characteristics of the Norway spruce and as such is ideal/trimmed with miniature lights and decorations as an apartment Christmas tree for table or window. AT the florists a well-formed two foot tree may cost as much as \$15.00 but at the chain groceries and elsewhere you can get handsome twelve inch plants that will in time acquire most any height you wish. We bought ours about seven years ago and decorated it then for our Christmas table; now it's about 3½ feet high and growing in a 14 inch pot.

The Christmas rose (*Helleborus niger*) is for the dooryard garden. Its pale green to white, waxy blossoms and rich green foliage can be combined to make a handsome holiday table centerpiece, or alone you can float the blossoms on water in a crystal bowl. Outside her breakfast table window, a friend of ours has a groundcover of these aristocrats that keep her in table decorations for many winter weeks. The Christmas rose is not commonly found in garden stores and small nurseries; Wayside Gardens at Mentor, Ohio is one source. Your order should be placed now for next spring.

William S. Lattin



Thanks

to Federal Supermarket, Top Value Liquors, the Deutschlanders Band, the weather, and, of course all you Foggy Bottomers,

for making the Oktoberfest a success, in spite of the change of date due to rain.



Company Coming?

From December 17 through January 9, Guest Quarters is offering special holiday rates to our Foggy Bottom neighbors.

Guest Quarters is the perfect place for your out-of-town guests to stay during the holidays. At Guest Quarters every room is a suite. And every suite includes a living room, dining area, and fully equipped kitchen. Your guests can be near you, retain the privacy and

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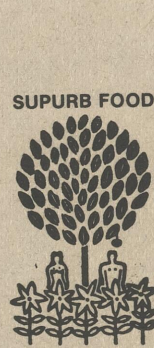
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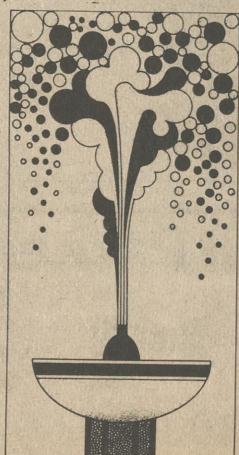
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Guest Quarters, continued from page 1

In the course of my interview with Mike I discussed with him the large expanse of brick wall on the H Street side of their building; telling him that it really wasn't a thing of great beauty for the residents in the Potomac Plaza and others to look out on. I suggested that he have his Landscape Designer see if he could come up with some treatment which would soften that mass of bricks.

You know what, he readily agreed; said no one had ever mentioned to him their objections to this barren wall. How could we be so quiet? Not like us! Mike says that he will give this his personal attention. I have found that his word is good so look forward to something constructive being done to improve the appearance of that wall.

Here might be a good place to tell you something about Mike Dickens. He and his wife Denise have lived in the Foggy Bottom area since February 1974. They first lived next door to Ellie Becker on Eye Street. They rented from Dorothy Fischer who Mike says was an excellent landlord. They now live at 904 - 25th Street, a couple of doors away from Anne Lomas, our FBA News Editor.

Mike is 29 years young, was born in Washington, D.C. at Walter Reed Hospital. Mike was an Army brat (his statement); he is the son of Brig. Gen R.L. Dickens. Denise is a graphics designer and editor at the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and also has her own design and commercial art shop "Art Graphics".

Mike and Denise do not have any children (yet), but they do have a beautiful Saint Bernard named Gretel. Mike graduated from Davidson College in 1970; played basketball (he's a tall one); his Coach was our own Lefty Driesell of Maryland. After college Mike played professionally for a year in Europe.

In May 1972 he joined the Guest Quarters organization as a Lifeguard at their Atlanta facility while waiting to go on to Law School. He never made Law School; he was at the right place at the right time and he got in on the ground floor planning of the Guest Quarters organization. From lifeguard in May 72 he became a Maintenance Helper in September 72. Then in November 72 he was put in charge of conversion of an Apartment building to the Atlanta Guest Quarters. In March 73 he was made General Manager of the Greensboro, N.C. GQ. August 1973 found Mike in Winston Salem as Property Manager of George Kaufman Properties and in February 74 he landed in Washington, D.C. as Operations Manager of the Foggy Bottom GQ. In July 74 he was made General Manager to the President.

A young man with intelligence and ability, one who knows how to deal with people and one who knows how to take the ball all the way down the court and drop it in the basket just when the timing is perfect. Mike relieves his tension in the office (there is plenty in his business) by watching and taking care of an aquarium of tropical fish—his pet is a red tail shark.

Mike is boastfully proud of the Guest Quarters organization; he gives them four feathers and four smiles for their personnel management policies, their financial and property management expertise, their vigor and imagination in today's business world, and he has nothing but praise for how they treat their house guests. Of course, he is extremely pleased with their confidence in and treatment of him.

Guest Quarters is a young company, young in years of establishment and young in age of its corporate members. It has its headquarters in Norfolk, Va. George Kaufman is Chairman of the Board and Sheppard McKenny is President of the Corporation. George Kaufman had an idea for a number of years for a GQ operation. He got together with Sheppard McKenny and, like Ray Kroc and Fred Turner of McDonalds fame, they had themselves a winner.

For all intents and purposes they established the first national chain of apartment hotels. They opened in Atlanta, Ga. in the fall of 1972, in Alexandria, Va. in December 72 and Greensboro, N.C. in March of 73, then Washington, D.C. in February 1974. See why Mike was moving in such a hurry; it's catching. Expansion from the present four Guest Quarters is in the wind.

An interesting side light, four of Mike's fraternity brothers got jobs in the Atlanta GQ at the same time Mike did—all have done very well in this young progressive company.

You may be interested in some statistics and facts about GQ. Their rooms are suites, complete living suites with Living Room, Dining area, Kitchen, bath and bedroom; extremely well furnished; cheerfully decorated in very good taste; kitchens are fully equipped just like home. They have the capacity to take care of people with a need to stay four or five months or longer. They fill the void not covered by large hotels or motels. The provide you with a second home.

Suites are rented by the day, of course, but a large part of their guests stay weeks, months, and even years. People who stay in the Guest Quarters want to feel at home; they don't want to be a stranger in a hotel; they repeat their stay over and over and become known to the staff almost like year round tenants.

There are 107 one bedroom suites in the building; they have all services of a hotel—full maid service, 24 hour secretarial and front desk service, bellman, valet parking—the works. They don't have a restaurant but make up for it with continental breakfast and by shining your shoes at nite if you put them outside your door! And who needs a restaurant when there are dozens in the area. They have an arrangement with the Intrigue Restaurant across the street from them for Meal Charge privileges to your hotel bill. Neat, eh?

GQ business is about 40% commercial—business men for either two days or two months; 40% is Government Visitors (heavy from State Department), World Bank and Embassy visitors. 10% are Kennedy Center artists and supporting staff and 10% are tourists, relatives and/or friends

of Foggy Bottom residents. Included in this 10% are residents of Foggy Bottom who use the GQ while their houses are being remodeled or their apartments refurbished. Personal reports which I have received indicate that they make you feel right at home and can't do enough to make your stay pleasant.

The occupancy rate of GQ has been between 80 and 90% since they opened here in February 1974. Hotels average about 60%. Last year, in the Washington Metropolitan area, hotels averaged 68%. Guest Quarters management recognized a need, filled it, and are doing just fine.

They have daily, weekly and monthly rates and have at this time 12 annual leases to Corporations. Chairmen and Presidents of these companies, together with their families, live here just as if they were in their home town or at their vacation home. I can understand why. There is a warm friendly feeling about the place, costs are not much more than a good hotel room (you get a suite at GQ); you get to know people in GQ and in the neighborhood—you feel at home, not like a visitor.

All this doesn't happen by chance; it is planned and worked at; Mike really manages the Foggy Bottom Guest Quarters. He is assisted in this by five full time regular employees, all of whom live in the area, and by some "heads-up" savvy GWU students on a part time basis. The regular key people stay with the company and there is a natural turn-over in part time employees as they finish their schooling and go on to other things.

In case you ever want to talk to Mike he is on duty from 10 AM until 6 PM; his able assistant, Jim Glennon is on from Noon til 8 PM. If you have any trouble getting these two, Doug Courtner, the Reservation Mgr. is on from 9 AM until 5 PM and Mickey Neal, Office Manager, holds forth from 7 AM until 3 PM. Any one of these employees will give you the personal attention we all feel that we deserve.

Incidentally if you see someone poking around, lifting the bedspreads, pulling back the drapes, moving the sofa, etc. chances are that it is Bill Stacey, Guest Quarters Corporate Interior Designer. He does an excellent job keeping everything looking Opening-Day-New. He does this by renovating 10% of the units each month. And Outstanding Housekeeping does the rest.

Guest Quarters, we in Foggy Bottom appreciate your presence. We hope that you like us too. We look forward to a long and pleasant relationship. You treat our guests well; keep it up. You respect our neighborhood; keep it up. And we will do our share by referring our relatives, friends and business associates your way. SPECIAL NOTE: Mike is planning a special Holiday Rate for referrals from residents of Foggy Bottom. More later on this subject, either in this issue or in a special release by Guest Quarters.

Mary E. Healy